

## **AID INCREASE WOULD BOOST NATIONS' SELF-SUFFICIENCY, RICE SAYS**

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**WASHINGTON, APRIL 11** -- The Bush administration's \$23.7 billion request to fund foreign operations for the fiscal year that begins October 1 would help developing countries transition to self-sufficiency while continuing to address core development programs in education and child health, says Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Testifying April 4 to a House of Representatives Appropriations subcommittee, Rice said the fiscal year 2007 foreign assistance budget also would support such "frontline states" in the War on Terror as Jordan and Pakistan, as well as aid countries "who wish to have the freedom and liberty" that the United States enjoys.

"If there are well-governed democratic states we will be safer," she said.

The requested amount is 14.25 percent larger than the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2006, not counting supplemental appropriations, said Representative Jim Kolbe, the subcommittee's chair. It supports the 80 percent of official U.S. foreign aid money administered by the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Rice said that the foreign aid budget would be realigned to avoid duplication of spending and to ensure that all aid programs are "going in the same direction."

The reorganization of foreign assistance planning and execution will be coordinated by Randal Tobias, whom the Senate confirmed March 29 as the first director of foreign assistance, at a level equivalent to that of the deputy secretary of state.

### **AIDS RELIEF, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT**

Under the president's budget request, foreign aid spending in fiscal 2007 would continue to address the global challenge of HIV/AIDS through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program and bilateral agreements, Rice said. The United States also would build more partnerships to implement AIDS education and treatment programs, she said. (See President Bush's

## HIV/AIDS Initiatives

([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/HIV\\_AIDS/hiv\\_aids\\_initiative.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/HIV_AIDS/hiv_aids_initiative.html).)

The budget request also seeks \$3 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which, with the signing of its eighth compact (a multiyear country-specific funding agreement) in March, is now "well under way," Rice said. (See Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).)

In its four years of existence, the MCC has awarded \$1.5 billion to countries that have demonstrated commitments to policy reforms and expects to award an additional six compacts totaling \$2 billion in the remainder of the current fiscal year, Rice said.

She called the MCC an "innovative program to reward transformational states" that are combating corruption, opening their economies and trying to "deliver the benefits of democracy to their people."

## PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

She said that in fiscal 2007, the United States would continue to enhance its public diplomacy efforts to "engage [people around the world] and get out a message of freedom."

The secretary said that to carry out the president's democracy agenda, some U.S. diplomats will be repositioned out of Europe and into countries such as India and China.

During questioning, Rice said the United States played a major role in helping Liberia achieve democratic change. A few years ago, she said, it was common to see photographs of 14-year-old Liberians carrying guns during the country's civil war and rule by dictator Charles Taylor.

Now Liberia has an elected president, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and Taylor is in the custody of a United Nations-supported international tribunal in Sierra Leone, she said. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/Mar/01-62149.html>).)

## Additional information

(<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/06feb20061000/www.gpoaccess.gov/usbudget/fy07/pdf/budget/state.pdf>) (PDF, 22 pages) on the State Department's fiscal 2007 budget request is available on the U.S. Government Printing Office Web site.

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